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ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2006

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, June 5, 2006, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 159, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 37109-070505 adopted by the Council on Tuesday, July 5, 2005.

PRESENT: Council Members Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel (arrived late), M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr. (arrived late), Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Mayor C. Nelson Harris-----6.

ABSENT: Council Member Brian J. Wishneff -----1.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

COMMITTEES-CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor C. Nelson Harris requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to §2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, Cutler, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----4.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Members Dowe and McDaniel were not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Council Member Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Chair, City Council's Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the annual performance of two Council-Appointed Officers, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of Council Member Dowe to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, Cutler, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----4.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Members Dowe and McDaniel were not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for a public purpose, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Members Dowe and McDaniel were not present when the vote was recorded.)

Council Member Dowe entered the meeting.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss disposition of publicly-owned property, where discussion in open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, Cutler, Dowe Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None-----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member McDaniel was not present when the vote was recorded.)

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.29, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, to discuss certain confidential proprietary records excluded from Chapter 37 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, pursuant to subdivision 11 of Section 2.2-3705.6, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager to convene in Closed Meeting as abovedescribed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----5.

NAYS: None -----0.

(Council Member Wishneff was absent.) (Council Member McDaniel was not present when the vote was recorded.)

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P. M., COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION, AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P. M., AGENDA.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:
NONE.

BRIEFINGS:

Council Member McDaniel entered the meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PENSION CODE:

PENSIONS: The Director of Finance presented an oral briefing proposing that Council consider amending the Roanoke City Pension Code to provide that on and after July 1, 2006, all new School Board employees will participate in the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), and providing for a service credit proration for positions eligible for the retirement benefit who work less than a full time schedule. He stated that the City's Pension Plan is a multi-employer plan that includes agencies that are a spin-off from the City, such as the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Commission, Western Virginia Water Authority, and Roanoke City School Board employees. He advised that the proposed amendments would not affect any employee currently in the City's pension system, but would acknowledge employees who work less than full-time schedules and allow those employees to receive a pro-rata amount of service credit equal to their pro-rata schedule. He stated that a recommendation will be submitted to the Council on June 19, 2006 for consideration and approval.

The following proposed Pension Plan amendments were reviewed:

- Modify City Code to add a provision for all newly hired employees of the Roanoke City School Board to enter the Virginia Retirement System (VRS)
- Modify the City Code to provide for pro-rata retirement service credit equivalent to hours worked for less than full-time service

Multi-Employer Plan:

- City Employees
- Roanoke Regional Airport Commission
- Roanoke Valley Detention Commission
- Roanoke Valley Resource Authority (All new employees participate in VRS)
- Certain Roanoke City School Board employees

School Board Employees;

- Certain employees participate in VRS
 - Administrators
 - Teachers
 - Paraprofessionals
 - Clerical Staff – Classified Employees
- Certain employees participate in Roanoke Pension Plan
 - Maintenance – Classified Employees
 - Operations – Classified Employees
 - School Cafeteria – Classified Employees

Proposed Plan Amendment: Effective July 1, 2006 – All new employees will participate in VRS

- Consistency of pension benefits for all School Board employees
- Avoids confusion in compliance with IRS guidelines
 - School Board concurs with proposed modifications and has amended its Administrative Policy to accommodate the proposed change

Service Credit and Hours Worked

- Infrequent occurrences of permanent positions staffed by employees working less than a full time schedule
- Employees working less than the full time schedule currently earn full time service credit
- Pension Code does not currently provide for partial service credit based on actual hours worked

Proposed Plan Amendment: Effective July 1, 2006 – Amend Pension Code to provide service credit equivalent to hours worked

- Provide for equity of benefits between employees working a full-time schedule vs. those working permanent positions at less than a full-time schedule

Service Credit Example

- Employee working 20 hours receives 20/40, or 50% of a full year's service credit
- Employee working 32 hours receives 32/40, or 80% of a full year's service credit
- Employee working 40 hours, or a normal full-time schedule, receives full year service credit

Proposed Plan Amendments:

- Modify City Code to add provision for all newly hired employees of the Roanoke City School Board to enter the Virginia Retirement System (VRS)
- Modify City Code to provide for pro-rata retirement service credit equivalent to hours worked for less than full-time service worked

SOCCKER FIELDS ON RESERVE AVENUE:

PARKS AND RECREATION: The City Manager advised that a deficit in the number of soccer fields in the City of Roanoke not only impacts the ability of citizens to participate in soccer and lacrosse, but the City's ability to host tournaments. She stated that a plan has been prepared to provide for potential soccer fields at the Reserve Avenue site which could help the City to address the issue on a short term basis while providing for long-term master planning of the site.

Steven C. Buschor, Director, Parks and Recreation, stated that the primary goal is to identify the need for soccer fields; and the national standard for soccer fields for a community the size of Roanoke is 20 to 22, and Roanoke currently has five multi-use soccer fields which has a direct impact on the amount of play on each field. He explained that the national standard is between 40 and 50 play opportunities per field, while Roanoke currently has approximately 150 – 200 play opportunities per field, which contributes to the difficulty in maintaining each field.

He provided the following summary of the Roanoke River Park Revitalization Conceptual Plan:

- The site would incorporate the proposed flood reduction berm which is approximately 75 feet wide and eight feet high.
- A portion of the parking lot would be used to incorporate one other full size soccer field, in addition to the second field and the existing field at the Victory Stadium site, with two potential smaller fields on the side
- Depending on storm water issues, spaces in between may have to be broadened to allow for surface drainage which may cause a reduction in the size of the field
- An additional parking area would be constructed near the river with porous paving material which will allow the water to percolate downward rather than flow off the surface.

He explained that the process could be started as early as May 30, 2007, and the fields could be ready for play in the fall of 2007; during the process, the City would not include any permanent facilities or structures in the plan until the Master Plan is developed; and portable restroom facilities and concession stands will be utilized. He stated that the City is working on an amphitheater feasibility study which will be released in the fall, and it is hoped that other amenities will be identified and included in the study.

Mr. Buschor reviewed the following:

Reserve Avenue Renovation Project

- A. Create an Engineering/Construction Administration Solicitation Process Post-Demolition.

Survey, engineering, landscape architecture, cost estimating, procurement, project management

Cost Estimate: \$50,000.00

This brings in one full-service firm that can manage all of the different disciplines that have to be intertwined so that the project has a high level of quality control, continuity, and efficiency. This effort will provide one point of contact for all disciplines, as follows:

B. Scope of Work

1. Create base map of project area with one foot contours
2. Identify the maximum spatial locations of soccer and lacrosse facilities possible
3. Identify and locate the necessary median parking spaces necessary to facilitate the new fields, as well as service the existing fields at the River's Edge Complex. Any new or renovated parking must comply with new zoning regulations: dust-free, curb and gutter, storm water, landscaping, and tree canopy.
4. Storm water and flood environment compliance
5. Inventory existing water supply and develop above ground irrigation plan
6. Locate potential future athletic and park lighting and electrical needs and incorporate appropriate spatial relationships in the design
7. Identify utility needs and hook-up configurations for portable restroom needs
8. Identify security fencing requirements
9. Design spectator seating areas (portable bleachers)
10. Identify greenway trail connections from the pedestrian bridge of the Roanoke River Greenway trail for pedestrian and cyclists through the site to connect to the Mill Mountain Greenway through the streetscapes of Reserve Avenue and Jefferson Street to Williamson Road
11. Phase development cycle for procurement phasing
12. Cost estimate entire project elements before development bid package process is activated
13. Firm shall manage all procurement processes to create both the necessary planning and development work for the full project

Time Line

May 30, 2007	Authorization to proceed to solicit firm for Item A above
June 9	Bid Item A needs through Engineering
June 30	Hire firm for development of documents and specifications
July 4th	Demo of existing site conditions complete
July 21	75% plans due-provide development cost estimates to City
Aug 4	Bid development processes
Aug 25	Hire all subcontractors (45-day contract)
Oct 13	Final sodding and seeding complete
Play Fall 2007	Can play on existing field in spring 2007

Post Fields Development Project(s):

1. Receive the results of the Amphitheatre Feasibility Study (Completed in fall 2006)
2. Prepare Scope of Work for Master Plan of the Reserve Avenue Site. (Commence fall 2006)
3. Identify timeline for the evacuation of Armory, Parks and Recreation Building, and School District Maintenance Facility.
4. If implementation of Master Plan is recognized as a Council priority, integrate Master Planning process, architectural and engineering, and construction into the City's Capital Improvement Program.

Council Member Cutler inquired as to how the Victory Stadium drainage problem will be addressed; whereupon, Mr. Buschor advised that the entire site will be regraded with fill material and resodded, grade levels will be elevated and fields will be crowned in order to provide for positive drainage toward the river. The City Manager stated that it may be possible to use the services of the same contractor that was engaged by the City to demolish Victory Stadium to initiate some of the grading for the soccer fields which will not only expedite grading, but could reduce overall costs.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the possibility of recycling concrete and bricks from the Victory Stadium site to elevate the soccer field site; whereupon, Mr. Buschor stated that the material could not be used due to flood reduction restriction guidelines, and debris material will be moved to another location by the contractor. He further stated that moving the National Guard Armory, Parks and Recreation Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Divisions, and the School Maintenance Building will offer other opportunities in the future which will be addressed in the Master Plan process.

Mr. Buschor stated that the targeted timeline is to complete the work in the spring, and with ideal growing conditions and utilizing sod as an alternative to seeding, the soccer fields could be available for activity in the spring, however, the real need will occur in the fall in order to accommodate youth soccer leagues. He explained that the month of October is the latest month in the year to place sod in order to grow a stand of grass before the winter months, and some of the work could be done with the existing contractor which will also help to expedite the process.

Council Member Dowe inquired about the type of field surface to be used and the flexibility of using the fields for other sports; whereupon, Mr. Buschor advised that the fields will have multi-use purposes and the turf will consist of a Bluegrass Athletic Pro-mix, rather than Bermuda grass which requires a much higher investment; and after the Master Plan has been completed and permanent fields have been identified, the City could explore a potential synthetic sports field that would accommodate extensive playing time.

Council Member Dowe encouraged the City Manager to review various options with regard to an amphitheater, such as a raised stage; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the amphitheater study must show that there is a sufficient demand and capacity within the region to support construction of an amphitheater before proceeding to the next phase.

Council Member Dowe inquired about the number of available parking spaces; whereupon, Mr. Buschor advised that 340 spaces will be available to support all field activities and there will be opportunities to patrons with Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital to use the hospital's parking deck structure free of charge.

At 9:30 a.m., Council Member Lea left the meeting.

Council Member Dowe inquired about the timing of the demolition of Victory Stadium and the July 4th celebration; whereupon, Mr. Buschor advised that the area that is used for shooting off fireworks may be affected, and other logistic questions are under consideration.

The City Manager advised that it will be necessary to review the results of the Amphitheater Demand Study before the process for the Master Plan starts in the fall of 2007, with an anticipated completion in early 2007. She further advised that an investment in soccer fields is not only a recreational, but an economic issue because the City receives the benefits from out of the City visitors who spend their money at local motels, restaurants and shopping malls while visiting the area to participate in the various sports activities. She pointed out that for some time the City's competitive edge for attracting sporting events has declined; therefore, it is critical for the City of Roanoke to develop the proposed facilities.

Mr. Buschor stated that the trends of other communities with multi-purpose playing fields revealed that clustering the fields together would make the City's venue more attractive for hosting these types of tournaments.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that the City of Roanoke is losing most of the major tournaments that bring much needed tax revenue to the locality and increasing the number of soccer/lacrosse fields will provide an immediate impact on revenue. He suggested that the City officials work with IDICO to place the City of Roanoke in a more positive position.

Council Member Cutler inquired about potential locations where the City could host track and field events, both now and in the future; whereupon, Mr. Buschor advised that currently, the only options available to the City are at the respective schools and tracks that are already established. He stated that planning future high school sites with track and field facilities will offer opportunities for the City of Roanoke to participate in national track and field events, and William Fleming High School would be an ideal site to develop for this purpose.

Council Member Cutler inquired about the status of Mill Mountain Park and the children's playground facility; whereupon, Mr. Buschor stated that the Mill Mountain Advisory Committee recently took the position that the next step will be to bring the issue to the attention of the City Manager.

Mayor Harris advised that the proposal allows the City to proceed in a way that meets both recreational and economic needs; the plan is and will remain somewhat fluid until a full Master Plan is completed and as certain changes occur such as removal of the National Guard Armory and other buildings on Reserve Avenue, certain things may need to be reconfigured over time; and the Master Plan will include the total site and will be implemented over a period of years.

Council Member Cutler moved that Council endorse the Reserve Avenue Renovation project. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted.

MARKET STUDY:

CITY MARKET: The City Manager advised that Tom Low, Consultant, Duany Plater-Zyberg and Company (DPZ), recently presented Council with an overview of multiple recommendations contained in the Market Study, and since that time the City has received input from Downtown Roanoke, Inc., with regard to the recommendations. She also called attention to correspondence from Mark Woods, representing City Market vendors, urging Council and City Administration to move quickly on the recommendation.

She requested the guidance of Council to prioritize those items that should be addressed first which will enable the City administration to aggressively pursue those issues that would be appropriate building blocks for future implementation.

R. Brian Townsend, Director of Planning, Building and Economic Development, presented the following:

City Market District Plan

General Recommendations

- Farmer/vendor info displays
 - Quick and easy
 - DRI should take the lead

- Fill gaps between buildings to create a more pedestrian friendly atmosphere
- Facade Improvement “Kit of parts” guidance for development of first floors
- Parking strategies should encourage multiple-destination shopping as part of the marketing strategy
- Make garages easier to find and use (new signage)
- Encourage liner buildings along Franklin Road (expansion on ground floors)
- Use the Merchandizing Plan as a strategy to recruit and establish anchors and to attract new businesses downtown
- Expand/reconfigure pocket parks and encourage strong utilization of parks downtown such as Century Park, encouraging monthly activities with “Local Colors” and display of Sister City sculpture pieces
- Incorporate public art into district

Special Projects:

Century Station Parking Garage (to be renamed “Market South Parking Garage”)

- Description:
 - Add four stories of residential or boutique hotel
 - Reconfigure and expand parking (relocate entrance)
 - First floor retail
- Cost estimate: \$18.5 million
- Responsibility: Public/private
- Action: Market the development opportunity

The City Manager requested input by Council as to whether the City should aggressively market the Century Station Parking Garage for upper floor development, which would require a commitment by the City to reorient parking and to some extent ban parking on the first floor to lead the way for the retail aspect to occur.

Council Member Dowe inquired about security in the parking facilities; whereupon, Mr. Townsend advised that a separate entrance through the parking garage could be created which would separate public activities from private activities, or access to the upper floors could be allowed by a type of key card system within the existing garage which would negate the need for a separate entrance, however, the developer may wish to approach security issues in a different manner. He added that it would also depend on whether the residential area is located in an abutting building rather than in the garage facility.

Council Member Dowe stated that he was particularly concerned about overall safety and enhanced visibility of the parking garage facilities; whereupon, the City Manager stated that the garage would have few open spaces for daily parking during the day, and has served as a monthly parking facility for a considerable period of time, and all parking facilities are regularly patrolled by police officers.

Market Square and Stalls

Mr. Townsend advised that:

- This segment of the project had the most alternatives with the most discussion as it relates to long-term improvements, and initially, a long-term solution would be to replace the awning and canopy system with a balcony system that would be attached, particularly in the block between Campbell Avenue and Kirk Alley, and integrated into the buildings along the frontage on the west side of Kirk Avenue.
- This would provide a long-term solution that would reconfigure the way trucks park under the balconies, as opposed to a canopy system, with balconies to afford the benefit of both the market cover and the opportunity to enliven the second level of the buildings along Market Street.

- Numerous details will have to be worked out for a long-term solution, including cooperation by property owners of those buildings where balconies will be attached in order to maximize use and to ensure that the buildings will have accessibility to the second floor.
- The proposed improvements will cost approximately \$1.2 million.
- Discussions have taken place with regard to removing everything currently on the front of the buildings and moving the Farmer's Market function to a kiosk or a covering in the middle of Market Street, with the ability for pedestrian and vehicular traffic to pass on either of the two sides. The idea was met with much concern by farmers insofar as function and operations, primarily in terms of loading and handling large quantities of produce and the comfort level of citizens when walking and sharing the street with vehicles from a shopping perspective.
- The consultant suggested a balcony treatment for the first block and a mid-block configuration for the block between Kirk Alley and Church Avenue.
- A short-term issue pertains to existing canopies and awnings on the City Market, and it will be necessary to make a decision in terms of whether to replace the awnings and existing canopies from a visual and functional point of view, which will allow for sprucing up the Market while working on two long-term solutions for the street.
- It is clear that the condition of the existing awnings from Campbell Avenue along Market Street need to be addressed even if structural elements are not changed at this time.

The City Manager advised that input received from Downtown Roanoke, Inc., suggests that the City proceed with an alternative relative to the balconies and center staging of farmers' stalls; and Downtown Roanoke, Inc., is looking for some immediate reaction to replacement of awnings or canopies.

- Description
 - Replace canopies with balconies
 - Consider center stalls along a portion of Market Street
- Cost estimate - \$1.2 million total
 - Stalls \$169,000.00
 - Balconies \$698,000.00
 - Awnings \$180,000.00
 - Kiosk \$ 42,000.00
- Responsibility: City
- Considerations
 - Phasing: Bottom up – need to do the underlying infrastructure first
 - Timing: If balconies will take more than two years, need to consider replacing canopies
- Description
 - Paving options
 - Unified, high quality design for street furniture and fixtures
- Cost: \$254,000.00 (streetscape only)
- Responsibility: City
- Considerations
 - Brick prohibitively expensive
 - Stamped asphalt not recommended

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that short-term and long-term issues should be separated, and immediate needs should be reviewed as soon as possible as opposed to planning for potential changes.

Mr. Townsend stated that Center in the Square will engage in a level of strategic planning due to the future relocation of the Art Museum and it should be determined if the balcony concept resonates with their planning efforts. If so, he stated that would give the City another opportunity for long-term planning, balconies should be constructed on both sides of the street, and all ideas will be brought to the table and considered in conjunction with any private property decisions that will have to be made.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and Council Member Cutler agreed that balconies should be constructed at both sides of the street, however, a considerable amount of discussion needs to occur prior thereto.

The City Manager called attention to the need for indepth discussion as to what the City will control. She added that Downtown Roanoke, Inc., has made the assumption that the City will be responsible for creation of the balconies, however, she could take the opposite position by suggesting that balconies should be addressed by individual property owners as an enhancement to their property. Since balconies could cause the upper floor to be marketed in a different manner, she stated that it could play a large part in the decision as to who will be ultimately responsible for the costs.

Council Member Dowe called attention to concerns that have been expressed with regard to functionality and the ability to load and unload at Market stalls, and inquired if the cadet squad or some other entity could be engaged to assist with loading and unloading. Mr. Townsend replied that this would be a role that DRI and the City could play in terms of owner and operator of the Farmer's Market, there is currently an area in the market square for loading and unloading, but options in the narrow portion of Market Street are more limited because stall space is smaller with less freedom of movement than in the Market Square, and another option would be the placement of vendors in locations where they could best function in terms of available space and needs. He stated that the Market Square was conceived as a permanent structure that could be used by vendors and during off times or in the evening, the area could become an impromptu meeting or gathering place, but the idea is that the Market Square will be a much more prominent architectural element as a centerpiece in the street, as opposed to on the side of the street, and will be more viable within its own context, as opposed to being an appendage to the buildings on the west side of the street.

Council Member Dowe inquired about access to the area by emergency vehicles; whereupon, Mr. Townsend stated that the vehicle passage way on both sides of the street will be over 13 feet.

Council Member Cutler stated that balconies on both sides of Market Square have merit, but he could not envision balconies along Market Street, since offices currently exist on the second floor of some buildings. He added that the treatment should be consistent from Campbell to Kirk to Church Avenues, and he was concerned about the architecture that resembles the Paris Metro, which may be attractive but may not be workable. He also suggested the widening of sidewalks, the provision of parking at an angle, and refurbishing and making the awnings deeper while maintaining the current modes operindae.

Mayor Harris called attention to certain information that was provided to the Council indicating that if installation of the balconies takes longer than two years, the City should consider replacing the canopies. He stated that his assumption was that it would take more than two years to install the balconies. He agreed that the City Market area has a "tired look" and encouraged the City Administration to proceed with plans to replace awnings and sidewalk cleanup, etc., because he did not anticipate that plans for balconies will be implemented within the next two years. He questioned whether automobiles and trucks sharing the same space with pedestrians would cause visitors to sense that the market area is not as open or free in terms of mobility as it currently is, therefore, he stated that was not receptive to that particular concept. He advised that balconies will provide a mechanism to give life to the second floor, as opposed to an aesthetic architecture amenity to the Market Building, and discussion should center around the kind of life, retail or otherwise, that balconies would provide for the second floor of many of the buildings, rather than some type of architectural novelty.

Mr. Townsend referred to streetscape and paving and noted that the consultant stated that there would be areas of opportunity to improve streetscape and to create more uniformity, including the use of new crosswalks and sidewalks. He pointed out that some of the current streetscape has existed for over 20 years. He stated that the consultant identified brick crosswalks as the desired type of crosswalk improvement, however, the City is of the opinion that asphalt will be a better choice and provide for a smoother surface than bricks.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that in the past when improvements were made throughout the City, bricks and pavers were removed and filled in with concrete, there is no way that the City could go back to uniformly using bricks, therefore, the use of asphalt will be more affordable and should only be used on both sides of the Market area, in the Market Square, and up Campbell

Avenue, which would help to set the City Market apart as a unique place, along with crosswalks that would be designed in a different way. In order to set the Market apart, he added that there should be some physical change that would allow the area to be immediately noticeable. Mr. Townsend noted that the use of certain types of street lights could also set off the Market area, and asphalt or other special paving would be easier to maintain.

With regard to outdoor dining opportunities, Council Member Cutler stated that current sidewalks are too narrow, particularly for wheelchairs and for pedestrians in general, and people sometimes have to step off the sidewalk into the street to move past barriers that separate the dining area from the sidewalk. Therefore, he suggested that the City consider closing the streets to vehicular traffic on weekends which would attract more people to the downtown area on a regular basis.

Stepped Plaza

Mr. Townsend advised that there is currently a weak relationship between the pedestrian bridge, The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center and the Market area corridor in terms of internal circulation through a series of escalators that transport pedestrians down at a 45 degree angle in route to the Market area. He explained that the proposed plan calls for a reconfiguration of the pedestrian bridge ending where pedestrians reach onto an open plaza, with steps that will bring pedestrians to the end of Market Street, Wall Street and Salem Avenue, which will replace the current escalator system and retain the elevator within the stair tower for handicap accessibility. He added that the plan re-invigorates and recommits how the area terminates, however, it is a costly endeavor at approximately \$2 million, but provides a different gateway between the north side of the railroad tracks and The Hotel Roanoke to downtown, and also creates a gathering place in downtown Roanoke with a series of plazas and steps.

- Description
 - Stairs leading from pedestrian bridge to street level
 - Designed as a social gathering place
- Cost: \$2 million
- Responsibility: City of Roanoke

- Considerations:
 - Stand-alone activity
 - Could be structured with retail/vending stalls, so potentially income producing

The City Manager advised that the escalators have been closed during the late evening hours until early morning in order to avoid unfavorable activities that have occurred in the past and improved location signage has been erected for the benefit of those persons who prefer to use the elevator within the stair tower. She reminded Council that a position was approved in the City's 2006-2007 fiscal year budget for a part-time position to serve as an ambassador for persons coming across the walkway who need directions, to monitor the cleanliness of the walkway and to report any necessary activities. She advised that the style of stepped plaza which is proposed by the consultant is costly, and if Council has a specific interest, other design and construction options could be explored.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick stated that Downtown Roanoke, Inc., will play a significant role to ensure that there is a connection between The Hotel Roanoke and downtown; there is a consensus that the project needs to be done, but it does not need to be quite as elaborate as is proposed by the consultant, and it is essential to create a plaza with a plan and a theme for a gathering place.

City Market Hall

Mr. Townsend stated that in the short-term, upon completion of roof replacement, certain exterior painting and maintenance issues will need to be addressed, along with interior upgrades and cosmetic improvements, new furniture and ceiling lights.

- Description
 - Overall FF&E/cosmetic improvements
 - Improve appearance of food court (e.g. lighting)
 - Third floor: Should become flexible event space, install bathrooms
 - Second floor: 1-2 restaurants with balcony dining to allow outdoor dining on that level
 - First floor: Push food court dining to exterior of building, opening dining literally to the streets, but retain activity on the inside

- Cost: \$2.96 million
- Responsibility: City of Roanoke
- Considerations:
 - Top-down sequencing
 - Third floor tenant upfit
 - Save first floor for last, with most impactful activity in terms of reconfiguration of the building and its operation

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick advised that other than Mill Mountain, the Market Building is the greatest jewel in the City of Roanoke, but the building has never operated in the way that it should. He stated that the City should consider closing the streets on both sides of the Market Building since they are no longer necessary for traffic movement, and the critical mass of the Market Building is not sufficient to make the building work as a shopping center or retail center. He suggested removal of the mezzanine and establishment of the third floor level as a place to dine, with a curved stairway, and cut a whole in the roof, if architecturally feasible, to enable sunlight to filter through the window down to the first floor.

Council Member McDaniel *inquired if improvements starting on the first floor would provide the greatest impact*; whereupon, Mr. Townsend stated that from a construction point of view, renovation normally starts on the top floor and works down, and infrastructure must be in place on the third floor before moving to the first floor. He stated that it is believed that the third floor could be renovated with minimal impact on the first floor.

The City Manager asked for input by Council with regard to closing two one-way streets in the City Market area.

Council Member Dowe stated that prior to making a decision, he would like more information on the hours of operation, and all plans for Market improvements and inquired about the success of the Sunday operating hours on the City Market.

Mr. Townsend responded that Sunday business on the Market is going well, but there has not been a lot of interest by vendors as a group in the City Market building toward Sunday operating hours, and speaking from a landlord point of view, to open the Market building for one or two vendors would not be cost effective. He also stated that any street closing would be a sensitive issue, and suggested that the City take "baby steps" by installing barriers on the streets for a period of time so as to ease people into a certain level of comfort and at some point in the future more permanent steps could be taken.

Williamson Road Development

Mr. Townsend called attention to three locations at one intersection where the consultant felt strongly that there was an opportunity for infill development that would give the corner an urban feel; i.e.: at the end of Church Avenue, at a jointly owned parking lot, and in front of the Norfolk Southern building. He stated that it is the City's responsibility to market the idea consistent with the plan in order to receive private sector responses; it is a good development site downtown and provides a good vista to terminate Church Avenue at Williamson Road versus looking at the back of the interstate abutment, and offers an infill opportunity for more density and activity at an important intersection in downtown Roanoke. He stated that the new Art Museum will provide an important anchor to the northeast corner of the district, there is an opportunity to anchor the southeast corner, and the biggest opportunity to anchor the southwest corner of the district is at the corner of Church Avenue and Jefferson Street with the former Heironimus Building being a key consideration, as well as the northeast corner next to Wachovia Tower and the area immediately to the west.

- Description
 - Multipurpose retail/entertainment building
- Cost: \$13.6 Million
- Responsibility: Private sector

Jefferson Street

Mr. Townsend stated that Jefferson Street is synonymous with the entrance and exit into downtown Roanoke; and the consultant submitted a variety of recommendations related to establishing anchors along the street with a merchandizing plan to begin to identify an appropriate range of uses along this important corridor, and development design of guidelines from the outset for property owners along the street for both utilization of facades and first floor activity. He stated that a major anchor was established at 204 Jefferson Street, and if the City can begin to replicate those types of new developments at key intersections, other infill will occur.

- Various recommendations to make Jefferson Street a retail destination
 - Recruit/establish anchors for merchandizing plan
 - Kit of parts for storefront improvements
- Responsibility: Public/private

The City Manager presented the following summary of her understanding of the Council's comments:

- Reinforce the concept of a stepped plaza and create a place for people to gather.
- Immediately address the issue of awnings that will be discussed at a later time and whether or not there is an opportunity for balconies to create additional locations for retail or office space.
- Council was not supportive of relocating the farmers' stalls to the center of the street.
- Council was supportive of the marketing of Century Station Parking Garage, Council would be committed to public participation in the project if a developer could be identified, and the City would bare the expense of relocating and expanding the parking spaces.
- Council supported the idea of defining the City Market area with asphalt paving in various locations, and identifying a way to deal with those areas that are currently bricked that do not have rideability, including Wells Avenue.

- City staff should address exterior issues and cosmetics of the Market Building and identify, at least temporarily, a way to improve the interior, with the lighting issue being addressed first, and costing out third floor improvements.
- City staff will submit options with regard to the closure of the two one-way streets on a temporary basis in order for vendors to become accustomed to the idea of closure, while moving long-term toward permanent closure of the streets.
- Council supported the aggressive marketing of private sector development along Williamson Road.

If any Member of Council has questions or concerns with regard to the above summarization, the City Manager requested that she be advised as soon as possible. She stated that the City Market project will be a multi-year activity and some issues warrant more discussion prior to implementation.

The Mayor stated that various issues will continue to come back to the Council piecemeal, and there will be opportunities for further discussion by Council and for public input.

Council Member Lea returned to the meeting.

At 10:50 a.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess until following a meeting of the Audit Committee which was scheduled to convene at 11:00 a.m., in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke.

The Council reconvened at 11:45 a.m., in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, with Mayor Harris presiding and all Members of the Council in attendance, except Council Member Wishneff.

TRAFFIC: The City Manager introduced a briefing on the Central Roanoke Mobility Study and called upon Mark Jamison, Traffic Engineer, and Paul P. Anderson, Hayes, Seay, Mattern and Mattern, for a briefing on Elm Avenue, Franklin Road, Colonial Avenue/Wonju Street, and New Roberts Road to Overland Road Connector.

Elm AvenueAlternative EA-1

Remove the concrete median and the south sidewalk across both the mainline and the railroad. Restripe the bridges to provide six lanes (two through lanes and a left-turn in each direction) in a tight diamond configuration. Add an eastbound through-right between the southbound exit ramp and 4th Street. Taper the eastbound Elm Avenue lanes back to two lanes just past the convenience store east of 4th Street. Add a right turn lane westbound between 4th Street and the northbound entry ramp. Add retaining walls as required and an extra lane on both the southbound and northbound exit ramps. This lane will allow dual lefts northbound and a shared left-through-right lane southbound. Adjust sidewalks, islands, and crosswalks to accommodate pedestrians with the new configuration. If pedestrian access is required on both sides of the bridge, a separate pedestrian bridge should be constructed on the south side of the bridge.

Alternative EA-2

Construct the southbound ramps and bridge modifications as described above for Alternative EA-1. On the northbound ramps, shift them to the east to the current location of 4th Street, which would be closed between Mountain Avenue and Bullitt Avenue. This would provide significantly more storage between the ramps and would eliminate several conflicting movements by closing 4th Street. It would also require the purchase of several business properties.

Alternative EA-3

Construct a Single Point Urban Interchange at Elm Avenue. Provide a new bridge with 16' - 6" vertical clearance and adjust the grade as necessary between Williamson Road and 4th Street. Provide for dual left turns on all approaches. Close the median at 4th Street. Provide a median turnaround loop between Bullitt and Jamison Avenues at 6th Street. Lengthen the merge zone on both northbound and southbound ramps to accommodate merging on the ramp and mainline. The northbound bridge at Tazewell Avenue and both the northbound and southbound bridges at Albemarle Avenue would need to be widened to accommodate the dual lane ramps.

Alternative EA-4

Southbound - Construct a grade-separated flyover using retained earth structure and bridge to allow southbound I-581 to eastbound Elm Avenue traffic to cross above the interchange and merge into eastbound Elm Avenue west of 6th Street. This would require the widening of the bridge over Tazewell Avenue to lengthen the ramp to provide adequate decision time. It would also require construction of piers in the median and adjacent to the mainline lanes. The convenience store at the southeast corner of 4th Street and Elm Avenue would be acquired. The connection to 5th Street would be closed and a new connection parallel and south of the ramp terminus would be provided across the convenience store property. The ramp from southbound I-581 to westbound Elm Avenue would be converted to serve dual rights at a signalized intersection, which would also accommodate the westbound Elm Avenue to southbound 220 left turns.

Northbound - Construct a new loop ramp north of the bridge to allow free flow right turns from northbound Route 220 to westbound Elm Avenue. The ramp radius and horizontal clearance to bridge piers are less than desirable, and construction of the ramp would require the acquisition of two commercial properties. Remove the sidewalk on the north side and the median to provide room for the lane from the loop ramp. The sidewalk on the south side of the bridge would remain open. Close 4th Street to southbound traffic onto Elm Avenue and relocate the Elm Avenue to northbound I-581 entrance ramp to the existing 4th Street location.

Alternative EA-5

Southbound - Construct a grade-separated flyover using retained earth structure and bridge to allow southbound I-581 to eastbound Elm Avenue traffic to cross above the interchange and merge into eastbound Elm Avenue west of 6th Street. This would require the widening of the bridge over Tazewell Avenue to lengthen the ramp to provide adequate decision time. It would also require construction of piers in the median and adjacent to the mainline lanes. The convenience store at the southeast corner of 4th Street and Elm Avenue would be acquired. The connection to 5th Street would be closed and a new connection parallel and south of the ramp terminus would be provided across the convenience store property. The ramp from southbound I-581 to westbound Elm Avenue would be converted to serve dual rights at a signalized intersection, which would also accommodate the westbound Elm Avenue to southbound 220 left turns.

Northbound – Add retaining walls as required and an extra lane on both the 220 northbound exit ramp to allow dual lefts onto westbound Elm Avenue. The I-581 northbound entrance ramp would remain in its current configuration.

Alternative EA-6

Construct a diverging diamond interchange at Elm Avenue. Utilize the existing bridge. Realign the southbound exit ramps and widen to allow dual lefts and a single right turn lane. Close the median at 4th Street and shift the northbound ramps to this location. Reconfigure Elm Avenue to allow the crossover of through traffic at each of the signalized intersections.

Franklin Road

Alternative FR-1

Southbound - Lengthen the merge area by adding an additional lane across the Roanoke River and NS Railroad Bridge to create an auxiliary lane that serves as the acceleration lane for traffic from Franklin Road to southbound 220 and also serves as the deceleration lane for the Colonial Avenue exit ramp.

Northbound - Widen the bridge over the Roanoke River and NS Railroad to create an auxiliary lane between the Wonju Street entrance ramp and the Franklin Road exit ramp.

Note: This bridge widening will require the reconstruction of the Brandon Avenue Bridge with center piers to allow the removal of the outside piers to create room for the auxiliary lanes.

Alternative FR-2

Southbound - Lengthen the merge area by adding an additional lane across the Roanoke River and NS Railroad Bridge to create a longer merge length for traffic from Franklin Road to southbound 220. Increase the radius of the southbound on ramp to allow a higher speed entry to provide less speed differential at the merge point. The merge area would terminate just north of the Brandon Avenue Bridge, so no reconstruction of that bridge would be required.

Northbound - No change

Colonial Avenue/Wonju Street

Alternative CW-1

Southbound- At Colonial Avenue, extend the deceleration lane back as part of the auxiliary lane between the Franklin Road entry ramp and the Colonial Avenue exit ramp. This will require widening of the bridge over the Roanoke River and NS Railroad and the reconstruction of the Brandon Avenue Bridge to allow extra width for the lane. Create dual left turn lanes and a single right turn lane on the exit ramp. Modify Colonial Avenue to provide two through lanes and one left turn lane southbound to the southbound entry ramp. Provide a narrow raised median to prevent left turns northbound from Colonial Avenue at 23rd Street. Modify the southbound 220 to eastbound Wonju Street loop ramp to shift it closer to Colonial Avenue and move the (gore) point west.

Northbound - At Wonju Street, eliminate the northbound 220 loop ramps (exit and entry) and replace with an at-grade signalized intersection that serves as the entry and exit ramps northbound. Consider adding a new two lane link between Broadway at Colonial Avenue and Winthrop Avenue at 26th Street to provide access to vehicles turning left from a turn lane rather than allowing them to block flow on Colonial Avenue while waiting to turn left onto 26th Street. This would create potential increased cut through traffic which would require traffic calming measures to mitigate. The alternative is the construction of a narrow median along Colonial Avenue at 26th Street to prevent left turns from Colonial Avenue to 26th Street. This would prevent the potential for cut through traffic and backups on Colonial Avenue near 26th Street, but would also significantly reduce accessibility to properties along Winthrop Avenue and to the southwest part of Towers Mall.

Alternative CW-2

Southbound - At Colonial Avenue, extend the deceleration lane back to the Brandon Avenue bridge (This is compatible with Alternative FR-2). Create dual left turn lanes and a single right turn lane on the exit ramp. Widen Colonial Avenue to provide two through lanes, one right turn lane, and one left turn lane southbound to Wonju Street. Provide one left turn lane, one through lane, and one right turn lane on the northbound approach on Colonial Avenue at Wonju Street. Provide a new fourth leg on Wonju Street at the Colonial Avenue intersection to connect with the extension to Brandon Avenue (Alternative 2 from the Colonial Avenue/Wonju Street Study) with one left turn lane, two through lanes, and one right turn lane. At Wonju Street, eliminate the northbound loop ramps

(exit and entry) and replace with an at-grade signalized intersection that serves as the entry and exit ramps northbound. The loop ramp southbound should be modified to shift it closer to Colonial Avenue and move the (gore) point west.

New Roberts Road to Overland Road Connector

Alternative RO-1

Construct a new two lane connector between Franklin Road and Overland Road across Route 220 to provide relief to Wonju Street and a better connection between South Roanoke and the schools (Fishburn Park, James Madison, Patrick Henry, and Virginia Western Community College) and businesses along Brandon Avenue and Brambleton Avenue. This road would generally follow the alignment of Roberts Road, continue along the edge of the Cycle Systems property before swinging to the south on bridge structure across Ore Branch, Route 220, and the NS Railroad before tying back to grade and connecting to Colonial Avenue opposite Overland Road.

Mr. Jamison advised that in approximately 30 days Council will be briefed on the Orange Avenue/Williamson Road portion of the study.

At 12:45 p.m., Council convened in Closed Session.

At 2:00 p.m., on Monday, June 5, 2006, the Council meeting reconvened in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, Virginia, with Mayor C. Nelson Harris presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Sherman P. Lea, Brenda L. McDaniel, Brian J. Wishneff, M. Rupert Cutler, Alfred T. Dowe, Jr., Beverly T. Fitzpatrick, Jr., and Mayor C. Nelson Harris -----7.

ABSENT: None -----0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Darlene L. Burcham, City Manager; William M. Hackworth, City Attorney; Jesse A. Hall, Director of Finance; and Mary F. Parker, City Clerk.

The invocation was delivered by Mayor C. Nelson Harris.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Harris.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

PROCLAMATIONS: The Mayor presented a proclamation to Abigail Bartley, Regional Development Director, American Cancer Society, declaring June 16 – 17, 2006, as Relay For Life Days.

PROCLAMATIONS: The Mayor presented a proclamation to James R. Justice, former President of the Fincastle Resolutions Chapter of Sons of the American Revolution and Past President of the Virginia Society of Sons of the American Revolution, declaring June 9, 2006, as Sons of the American Revolution Day.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion was desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

CITY COUNCIL: Minutes of the special meeting of Council held on Monday, April 17, 2006, and the regular meeting of Council held on Monday, April 17, 2006, were before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council dispense with the reading of the minutes and that the matter be approved as recorded. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

EASEMENTS-STREETS AND ALLEYS: A communication from the City Manager requesting a public hearing be scheduled on Monday, June 19, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, with regard to a proposed encroachment into the public right-of-way of Southern Hills Drive, S. W., for a retaining wall for Home Depot, was before the body.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

PARKS AND RECREATION-COMMITTEES: A communication from Gwendolyn W. Mason tendering her resignation as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, was before Council.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that Council accept the resignation and receive and file the communication. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-PENSIONS-WATER RESOURCES: A report of qualification of the following persons, was before Council:

Michael W. Hanks for a term ending June 30, 2008, and John G. Reed for a term ending June 30, 2010, as members of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan; and

M. Rupert Cutler as a member of the Western Virginia Water Authority Board of Directors, for a term commencing July 1, 2006 and ending June 30, 2010.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that the report of qualification be received and filed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Lea and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

SCHOOLS:

Dr. Robert H. Sandel, President, Virginia Western Community College (VWCC), presented an update on activities during the past year. He advised that:

- There are 23 community colleges in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with over 250,000 students in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- VWCC started in Roanoke in 1966 as Roanoke Technical Institute on the southern side of the present campus and the University of Virginia was located on the northern side of the campus; the two colleges were merged and in 1966 VWCC became operational.
- VWCC serves the City of Roanoke, the City of Salem, the County of Roanoke, Craig County, a portion of Botetourt County and portion of Franklin County and it is the fourth largest community college in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- 70 per cent of the student population comes from the City of Roanoke and Roanoke County, approximately 15 per cent from the City of Salem, Franklin and Botetourt Counties, and 15 per cent from Montgomery and Bedford Counties.

- During the past year, VWCC had 12,576 unduplicated credit students, with 25 to 30 per cent of students from the City of Roanoke, and approximately two-thirds of the 12,576 students are part-time.
- The City of Roanoke has the largest single campus in the community college system, about one in every three students is a parent, excluding dual enrollment, and about 80 per cent of the students work.
- VWCC is a commuter campus, with no dormitories, and no athletic teams.
- VWCC continues to experience growth, about one-third of the student population receives some type of financial aid, and the college has the highest per centage of high school graduates of any of the 23 community colleges, with 20 to 25 per cent of all high school seniors attending VWCC upon graduation from high school.
- Students who transfer from VWCC have the highest grade point average of any of the other 23 colleges in the Commonwealth, as well as the highest writing sample and writing comprehension of any of the 23 community colleges, and VWCC ranks in the top three community colleges in Virginia in math and computer literacy.
- 85 per cent of graduates remain in the Roanoke area upon graduation.
- The average age of students is 29, with 60 per cent being female.
- VWCC offers allied health programs, including the registered nursing program, licensed practical nursing, dental hygiene, and radiography, all of which have maintained a 95 per cent national score passage rate since 2001; the national average of the programs is in the high 80's, with VWCC scoring 95 to 98 per cent passage, and the registered nursing program maintained the highest test scores of every two and four year colleges in the Commonwealth of Virginia during the past year.

- A new \$18 to \$20 million complex consisting of 70,000 to 80,000 square feet for a health, natural sciences and math complex is currently under consideration by the State legislature.
- VWCC employs 225 full-time persons and 300 part-time persons.
- 40 per cent of students attend VWCC in order to transfer to other colleges and universities; 60 per cent of students enroll to learn a skill in order to enter the world of work, and 80 per cent of future jobs will be for non-four year college graduates at the technician/skilled worker level.
- VWCC offers a full staff of Workforce Development employees who provide training programs for industry and business, and a City Emergency Medical Technician program and Fire and Rescue Academy programs are offered.
- Construction is currently underway for a new engineering and technology building that will include the latest in technology and equipment; and VWCC is the first of the 23 community colleges offering a full transfer to the Virginia Tech Engineering program.

Marilyn Harris, representing Cox Communications, advised that VWCC worked with the cable company to establish a two year certification program which is a combination of Virginia Western Community College courses, Cox Communication web courses and on-site training, leading to a certified program with credits that can be used toward a collage degree. She stated that the program has been so successful that it will be expanded to include front line employees in the near future.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick expressed appreciation for the classes offered at VWCC to address workforce development which is one of the most serious issues facing the Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as transportation problems. He stated that the sooner both issues are addressed, the better off the Commonwealth will be in terms of creating jobs and providing benefits, not just for the City of Roanoke, but the entire Roanoke Valley and the region.

Council Member Dowe commended Dr. Sandel and his executive staff for the quality of education that is offered by VWCC. He stated that statistics would suggest that a large number of students enrolling at VWCC are products of the Roanoke City Public School system.

Dr. Sandel advised that VWCC is working with the Superintendent of Schools with regard to offering occupational technical programs.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

BUDGET-FIRE DEPARTMENT: The City Manager submitted a *communication advising that in 2005, the United States was hard hit by the most active hurricane season in history; hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma devastated Louisiana and Florida, leaving paths of destruction that continue to be cleaned up today.*

It was further advised that to assist with the hurricane recovery in the devastated regions, Roanoke Fire-EMS was called upon by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) during fiscal year 2005-06 for *three different deployments; the first deployment consisted of six individuals who departed from Roanoke on October 3 to assist Calcasieu Parish in Louisiana; while there, they helped get the City back on its feet after Hurricane Rita and assisted with clean up and basic day to day activities; the group returned to Roanoke on October 23; on October 25, a second team of six individuals left for Moore Haven County, Florida, to help the area recover from Hurricane Wilma; the team assisted with getting sewage and water back on-line and staffed the Emergency Operations Center, and returned to Roanoke on November 9; in December, Roanoke Fire-EMS sent the final deployment back to Louisiana to Cameron Parish, and the seven man team also worked in the Emergency Operations Center and assisted in the recovery from Hurricane Rita.*

It was explained that Roanoke Fire-EMS incurred expenses due to overtime and supplies which are now being reimbursed by the Virginia Department Emergency Management (VDEM); funds recovered from VDEM will be used to cover expenses incurred by Fire-EMS during the three deployments in 2005; and Roanoke Fire-EMS has submitted all requested receipts and paperwork will work with VDEM to secure reimbursements.

The City Manager recommended that Council authorize the Director of Finance to establish a revenue estimate in the General Fund from VDEM, in the amount of \$158,939.00, and appropriate funds to the following Fire-EMS accounts:

001-520-3211-1003 - (overtime)	\$ 6,950.00
001-520-3212-1003 - (overtime)	\$ 7,883.00
001-520-3213-1003 - (overtime)	\$60,377.00
001-520-3521-1003 - (overtime)	\$ 4,467.00
001-520-3212-2044 - (training and development)	\$ 5,000.00
001-520-3213-2030 - (administrative supplies)	\$11,545.00
001-520-3212-2144 - (business meals and travel)	\$22,717.00
001-520-3521-2066 - (program activities)	\$40,000.00

The City Manager further recommended that she be authorized to execute the required agreements and any other related documents, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37409-060506) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for reimbursement to the Fire Department of hurricane deployment related expenses, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 329.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37409-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

CITY CODE-CITY MARKET: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Downtown Roanoke, Inc. (DRI) is the City's operator of the Historic Roanoke City Market (Market) area spaces; DRI has received many requests from market vendors, storeowners, and others to provide regular Sunday operating hours for the Market; in response, DRI has been coordinating, under a Special Event Permit for DRI, for use of the Market area on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by various vendors since March 20, 2006, to ascertain the response to Sunday hours; and the response has been positive.

It was further advised that in view of the positive response, DRI has requested that the City amend Section 24-64, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, to change the days of operation from Monday through Saturday to Sunday through Saturday on a regular basis; DRI has also requested that Council amend the Fee Compendium for Fees for use of market spaces to reflect Sunday operations; such change would require that the current Daily Permit Fee reflect that \$10.00 per space per day would now apply to Sunday use as well as Monday through Thursday use; fees for Friday and Saturday use and other permits would remain the same; the changes will provide for more activities to be available for the downtown area on Sundays; and DRI has requested that the changes be made effective July 1, 2006.

The City Manager recommended that Council amend Section 24-64, Operating hours, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, to change the days available for operation of the Market from Monday through Saturday to Sunday through Saturday, with the days and hours for operation of the Market to be established by the City Manager; and that Council approve the change for market space fees, and amend the Fee Compendium to reflect the change, effective July 1, 2006.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37410-060506) AN ORDINANCE amending and reordaining Article III, Public Markets, of Chapter 24, Public Buildings and Property Generally, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, by amending §24-64, Operating Hours, to change the days the Market is available for operation from Monday through Saturday to Sunday through Saturday; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 330.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37410-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37411-060506) A RESOLUTION providing for an amendment to the fees charged for the use of market spaces at the Roanoke City Market, with such changes to be effective July 1, 2006; and directing amendment of the Fee Compendium.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 331.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37411-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

BUDGET-HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that Social Services, through the Foster Care Program, provides out-of-home placements for children who are in need of protection and can no longer live at home; for those children who are deemed eligible for Title IV-E funding, the Federal and State governments will reimburse localities for the costs of out-of-home placements at 100 per cent of maintenance, day care and visitation-related transportation; and Federal and State funding is also available to assist with maintenance costs and special needs for adoptive families and to assist with refugee resettlement.

It was further advised that the City of Roanoke will receive additional funding for Foster Care, Special Needs Adoption, Subsidized Adoption and Refugee Resettlement for fiscal year 2005-2006, in the amount of \$355,000.00; Social Services currently maintains over 600 children who are in Foster Care, or receive some type of adoption assistance, and the cost of providing services to these children continues to increase; and many of children have difficulties that require special needs payments.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a budget ordinance to increase General Fund revenue estimates by \$355,000.00 and appropriate funding in the same amount as follows:

Revenues	
001-110-1234-0679 (Refugee Program)	\$ 5,000.00
001-110-1234-0675 (Foster Care)	<u>350,000.00</u>
	355,000.00
Appropriations	
001-630-5313-3150 (Indo-Chinese)	\$ 5,000.00
001-630-5314-3115 (ADC Foster Care)	200,000.00
001-630-5314-3130 (Special Needs Adoption)	100,000.00
001-630-5314-3155 (Subsidized Adoption)	<u>50,000.00</u>
	355,000.00

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37412-060506) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate additional funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Department of Social Services, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 332.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37412-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

BUDGET-YOUTH: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that the City of Roanoke Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring and Sanctuary/Crisis Intervention Programs provide court-ordered, pre-dispositional, intensive supervision of juveniles living within the community; program services are provided to juveniles who reside in the City of Roanoke and other jurisdictions such as Roanoke County, Botetourt County, the City of Salem,

Craig County, and Alleghany County and each outside jurisdiction pays for the services provided; the fiscal year 2005-06 revenue estimate for Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring Services is \$50,000.00; the fiscal year 2005-06 revenue estimate for Sanctuary/Crisis Intervention is \$30,000.00; it is anticipated that actual revenue for Outreach Detention/Electronic Monitoring will exceed the estimate in the amount of \$9,850.00; and it is also anticipated that actual revenue for Sanctuary/Crisis Intervention will exceed the estimate in the amount of \$13,000.00.

It was further advised that in accordance with State mandates, all program revenue must be used for services that are specifically outlined in the Board approved VJCCCA plan; and excess revenue must be appropriated for program activities.

The City Manager recommended that Council increase the General Fund revenue estimate by \$9,850.00 in Revenue Account No. 001-110-1234-1310 and increase the General Fund revenue estimate by \$13,000.00 in Revenue Account No. 001-110-1234-1311, and appropriate funds in the amount of \$22,850.00 to the following accounts:

001-631-3330-1004 Temporary Wages	\$ 3,000.00
001-631-3330-2021 Cell Phone	\$ 450.00
001-631-3330-3070 Equipment Rental	\$ 3,000.00
001-631-3350-2020 Telephone	\$ 2,400.00
001-631-3350-2066 Program Activities	\$ 1,000.00
001-631-3360-2020 Telephone	\$ 3,500.00
001-631-3360-2022 Electric	\$ 1,250.00
001-631-3360-2024 Gas	\$ 3,100.00
001-631-3360-2035 Equipment	\$ 1,500.00
001-631-3360-2032 Housekeeping	\$ 2,000.00
001-631-3360-2064 Wearing Apparel	\$ 650.00
001-631-3360-2066 Program Activities	\$ 1,000.00

Council Member Dowe offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37413-060506) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate additional revenues from the Outreach Detention and Sanctuary programs, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 333.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37413-060506. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

BUDGET-FLOOD REDUCTION/CONTROL: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that a local emergency was declared in the City of Roanoke on September 28, 2004, as a result of flooding; cleanup, debris removal and repair efforts were initiated by City departments following the flood; the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) was notified by the Governor's Office that State funding was approved to assist the City of Roanoke in clean-up required following the flooding; and approval was for 72 per cent of eligible costs up to \$504,000.00.

It was further advised that over the course of several months, supporting documentation regarding flood related expenditures was subsequently collected; final expenditure documentation was available in recent months and a complete request was submitted to VDEM; VDEM has notified the City that funding in the amount of \$115,642.00 is being provided as a reimbursement for expenses incurred; and the reimbursement represents 72 per cent of total eligible expenses of \$160,613.00 incurred during the prior fiscal year; and additional flood insurance proceeds have been received in the amount of \$50,168.00 for repairs to the National Guard Armory.

It was noted that a budget adjustment for motor fuels in the amount of \$296,800.00 was made on March 20, 2006; as a result of a cost increase since the prior adjustment, it is anticipated that motor fuel expenditures will exceed the current budget in the amount of \$100,000.00; the Fleet Management Fund revenue and expense budgets will need to be adjusted, and funding in the amount of \$95,500.00 will need to be allocated in the General Fund to cover its share of motor fuel billings; and the remaining \$4,450.00 will be billed to the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, Roanoke Valley Detention Commission, Civic Center Fund, and Department of Technology Fund.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a budget ordinance establishing a revenue estimate of \$115,642.00 from VDEM in the General Fund and increase the revenue estimate for Flood Insurance Proceeds in the Capital Projects Fund, in the amount of \$50,168.00; appropriate \$50,168.00 to Facilities Management (BCAP) (008-440-9854-9003) in the Capital Projects Fund; increase the revenue estimate for Fleet Management Billings for Motor Fuels (017-110-1234-1279) by \$100,000.00; appropriate funding in the amount of \$100,000.00 to Fleet Management Motor Fuels, Account No. 017-440-2641-3013; and appropriate funding in the amount of \$95,550.00 to General Fund Department Motor Fuel accounts and \$20,092.00 to Contingency, Account No. 001-300-9410-2199.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following budget ordinance:

(#37414-060506) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and insurance proceeds to various department motor fuel accounts and to Facilities Maintenance BCAP and to increase the motor fuel revenue and expenditure budgets in the Fleet Management Fund, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2005-2006 General, Capital Projects, and Fleet Management Funds Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No.70, Page 334.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37414-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member McDaniel and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that over the years, several automotive dealers have donated the use of motor vehicles to the City of Roanoke for use in community-oriented policing and crime prevention efforts, at a cost of either one dollar per year or one dollar per month; and citizens of the City of Roanoke have benefited from the donations through increased police presence and enhanced community support in the neighborhoods.

In support of the City's mission to develop public/private partnerships and to enhance community-oriented policing efforts within the community, a local car dealership has offered to donate the use of one vehicle for this purpose; and the conditional offer includes a mileage stipulation regarding usage, whereby the mileage shall not exceed 15,000 miles per year and will be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that the conditional requirement is met.

The City Manager recommended, pursuant to Section 2-263 of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, that Council accept donation of one Mitsubishi Galant LS vehicle from Sarmadi and Harper, Inc., d/b/a Dave Sarmadi Mitsubishi, at a lease rate of one dollar per month, or \$12.00 per year for up to 15,000 miles within the one year term of the lease and that the City Manager be authorized to accept this type of donation in the future and to execute vehicle lease agreements, to be approved as to form by the City Attorney, with any auto dealer who is willing to lease vehicles to the City at a lease rate of \$1.00 per month, or \$1.00 per year, on a year-by-year basis.

Council Member Dowe offered the following resolution:

(#37415-060506) A RESOLUTION authorizing and accepting the donation of certain motor vehicles for the use by the City and authorizing the City Manager to enter into agreements between the City and the owners of the motor vehicles.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 70, Page 337.)

Council Member Dowe moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37415-060506. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

BUDGET-INDUSTRIES: The City Manager submitted a communication advising that FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., presently located in the former Norfolk Southern East End Shops in the City of Roanoke, produces aluminum railroad cars; in February 2005, Council adopted Resolution No. 36961-020705 in support of FreightCar Roanoke, Inc.'s application for Railroad Industrial Access Funds of up to \$450,000.00; the funds have been received and used; the site now needs an additional rail line costing approximately \$600,000.00 to increase production; FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., has requested the City's support

of its application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Railroad Industrial Access Program for funds to help defray a portion of the cost; the application must be supported by the City and accompanied by a resolution from the local governing authority in support of the application; and the City of Roanoke will not incur any monetary obligation to provide any part of the funds.

It was further advised that the Company will invest \$600,000.00 over and above its original \$5.45 million and retain 440 employees; as part of the project, the Company has again requested \$300,000.00 in Industrial Access Railroad Track Funds from the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT); and in addition, if the Company spends an additional \$300,000.00 in upgrading the railroad track, it will request DRPT to grant additional monies equal to \$150,000.00.

The City Manager recommended that Council adopt a resolution in support of the application, and that the City Manager be authorized to execute and/or provide appropriate documents to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for the Railroad Industrial Access Program in connection with the application of FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., to assist in obtaining up to \$450,000.00 in Program funds and setting forth the City's support for FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., to receive such Program funds from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following resolution:

(#37416-060506) A RESOLUTION supporting the application or other documents to be filed with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation by FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., for up to \$450,000.00 in Industrial Access Railroad Track Funds and to state the City's support for FreightCar Roanoke, Inc., receiving such funds.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No.70, Page 338.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Resolution No. 37416-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY CODE: The City Attorney submitted a written report advising that since 1982, Council has reenacted and recodified the City Code on an annual basis in order to properly incorporate in the Code such amendments made by the General Assembly at the previous Session to State statutes that are incorporated by reference in the City Code; the procedure ensures that the ordinances codified in Roanoke's Code incorporate the most recent amendments to State law; incorporation by reference is frequently utilized in local codes to preclude having to set out lengthy provisions of State statutes in their entirety; and the technique ensures that local ordinances are always consistent with State law as is generally required.

The City Attorney further advised that the procedure whereby a local governing body incorporates State statutes by reference after action of the General Assembly has been approved by the Attorney General; therefore, he recommended that Council adopt an ordinance to readopt and reenact the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979). He explained that if the ordinance is not adopted, City Code sections incorporating provisions of the State Code amended at the last Session of the General Assembly may not be deemed to include the recent amendments and may be impermissibly inconsistent which could result in the dismissal of criminal prosecutions under the various City Code sections.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(37417-060506) AN ORDINANCE to readopt and reenact the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 340.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37417-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

ARMORY/STADIUM: The City Attorney submitted a written report advising that by deed dated March 15, 1941, Virginia Holding Corporation conveyed to the City of Roanoke approximately 30.15 acres of land upon the condition that the land be used for stadium, armory, park, and recreational purposes only; Victory Stadium was subsequently constructed on the property; Virginia Holding Corporation has executed a deed releasing the City from any requirement that the property be used for stadium purposes; and the City would continue to be required to use the property for armory, park, and recreational purposes.

The City Attorney transmitted a measure authorizing the Mayor to execute a deed of release.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick offered the following ordinance:

(#37418-060506) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Mayor to execute a Deed of Release dated May 26, 2006, between Virginia Holding Corporation and the City of Roanoke; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 70, Page 341.)

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 37418-060506. The motion was seconded by Council Member Cutler and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members, McDaniel, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----5.

NAYS: Council Members Lea and Wishneff -----2.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE:

AUDITS/FINANCIAL REPORTS: The Director of Finance submitted the *Financial Report for the month of January 2006*.

(For full text, see Financial Report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Director of Finance advised that the City's meals tax, which typically has a long term growth trend of four to five per cent, was up 6.9 per cent at the end of April; the sales tax which typically has a growth trend in the three to five per cent range annually was up 5.8 per cent; the business license tax, which typically has a growth rate of two to three per cent annually, was up seven per cent on a year to day basis; and extraordinary growth has been observed in the transient occupancy tax which typically has a growth rate of about five per cent per year, however, on a year to date basis the room tax is up 13 1/2 per cent.

Without objection by Council, the Mayor advised that the report would be received and filed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

BUILDINGS/BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Council Member Wishneff inquired if building permits are available for review on-line at the time the permits are issued; whereupon, R. Brian Townsend, Director, Planning, Building and Economic Development, advised that all building permit activity is on-line and can be assessed through the Real Estate file, under permits and activities.

COUNCIL: The Mayor advised that he would not be present for the next regular meeting of Council on Monday, June 19, 2006, and inasmuch as it would be the last official City Council meeting for Council Members Cutler and McDaniel, he would like to express appreciation for their service to the citizens of the City of Roanoke.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard and matters requiring referral to the City Manager will be referred immediately for response, recommendation or report to Council.

COUNCIL-ZONING-ARMORY/STADIUM: Mr. Chris Craft, 1501 East Gate Avenue, N. E., requested that citizens be permitted to take photographs of Victory Stadium as a memento prior to demolition. He asked that the City of Roanoke enforce the sign ordinance prohibiting the posting of yard sale signs on City property.

He congratulated Council Members-Elect Gwendolyn W. Mason and David B. Trinkle on their recent election to Roanoke City Council, and expressed appreciation to retiring Council Members M. Rupert Cutler and Brenda C. McDaniel for their service to the citizens of the City of Roanoke.

Mr. Jesse E. Blessard, 1406 East Gate Avenue, N. E., stated that the income limit for real estate tax relief for elderly and disabled homeowners in Roanoke County is \$56,000.00, the income limit is \$34,000.00 in the City of Roanoke and State guidelines place the income limit at \$50,000.00. He inquired as to the City's rationale for not increasing the income limits for real estate tax relief for elderly and disabled homeowners in the City of Roanoke.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Ms. Helen E. Davis, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., expressed concern that even though Victory Stadium is closed for public use, Carilion Health System used the facility to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Lifeguard 10.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick clarified that the activity was held on the Parks and Recreation parking lot next to Victory Stadium.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Evelyn D. Bethel, 35 Patton Avenue, N. E., advised that "haste makes waste"; and Council has voted to demolish Victory Stadium as soon as possible without taking into consideration the vote of wishes two newly elected Members of Council who will take office on July 1, 2006. She stated that another issue of concern relates to the proposed Social Security Administration Office building, especially in view of numerous questions that have not been answered by the City. She advised that the Henry Street area occupies one acre of land and the black community, consisting of approximately 25 per cent of Roanoke's citizens, favor a village center in the area. She explained that 85 per cent of those persons to be served by the Social Security Administration office do not live in the City of Roanoke; and City officials have stated that location of the office building in the area will increase economic development, however, the only way that economic development can occur is to further encroach upon the residential area; therefore, she requested that Council give serious consideration to locating the proposed Social Security Administration Office building in historic Gainsboro.

ARMORY/STADIUM: Mr. Jim Fields, 17 Ridgecrest Road, Hardy, Virginia, advised that Victory Stadium belongs to the taxpayers of the City of Roanoke and the agreement between the City and the Norfolk and Western Railway provides that the City will maintain the Stadium and the National Guard Armory. He stated that the votes that were cast in the May 2, 2006 Councilmanic election revealed that over 17,000 voters favor the demolition of Victory Stadium, while 21,000 persons voted to save the stadium. He added that any memorial service to honor World War II veterans and those persons who died on 9-11 should be held on hallowed ground such as Victory Stadium, a church, or a cemetery.

COMPLAINTS-CITY COUNCIL-COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY: Mr. Robert E. Gravely, 727 29th Street, N. W., advised that: "The last time I talked to you all, I told you, five of you, all was coming down, you all did not listen. Timing is of the most excellence to God because God fills time. I told you one more too, stand up but you all did not listen. Under the due process of law, and I am not to judge you, you are going to put your hands on your head and in your heart, cause that's where your life is at, and you thought of this mess, you made it. According to the Book of Ecclesiastes, there is a time to live and a time to die, and according to the Spirit that dwells within me as I am standing here speaking to you, this Wednesday according to your law, I didn't make the death penalty, according to what you have did, and if you give to one of them you give to all of them, according to the law of the land with the City Attorney there, I can and I will have you shot. I am not to be..."

The Mayor ruled Mr. Gravely out of order and instructed the City Attorney to forward his remarks to the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: NONE.

At 3:05 p.m., the Mayor declared the meeting in recess for five Closed Sessions.

At 5:15 p.m., the Council reconvened in the Council Chamber, with all Members of the Council in attendance and Mayor Harris presiding.

COUNCIL: With respect to the Closed Meetings just concluded, Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meetings were convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Dowe and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

NAYS: None -----0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-HOUSING/AUTHORITY: The Mayor advised that there is a vacancy on the Fair Housing Board for a term ending March 31, 2007, due to the resignation of Rich G. McGimsey; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Anthony M. Reed.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Reed was appointed as a member of the Fair Housing Board, to fill the unexpired term of Rich G. McGimsey, resigned, ending March 31, 2007, by the following vote:

FOR MR. REED: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-FIRE DEPARTMENT-COMMITTEES: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of John C. Moody, Jr., as a member of the Board of Fire Appeals will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of John C. Moody, Jr.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Moody was reappointed as a member of the Board of Fire Appeals for a term ending June 30, 2010, by the following vote:

FOR MR. MOODY: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-CITY EMPLOYEES: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Edward C. Bradley and Virginia B. Stuart as members of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Edward C. Bradley and Virginia B. Stuart.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Bradley and Ms. Stuart were reappointed as members of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission, for terms each ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. BRADLEY AND MS. STUART: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Sandra K. Brunk, Charles E. Jordan, George Kegley, and Susannah Koerber as members of the Roanoke Arts Commission will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Sandra K. Brunk, Charles E. Jordan, George Kegley, and Susannah Koerber.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Brunk, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Kegley, and Ms. Koerber were reappointed as members of the Roanoke Arts Commission for terms each ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. BRUNK, MR. JORDAN, MR. KEGLEY AND MS. KOERBER: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-GREENWAY SYSTEM: The Mayor advised that the three year term of office of Lucy R. Ellett as a member of the Roanoke Valley Greenways Commission will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of Lucy R. Ellett.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Ellett was reappointed as a member of the Roanoke Valley Greenways Commission for a term ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. ELLETT: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-LIBRARIES: The Mayor advised that the three year term of office of Wilburn C. Dibling, Jr., and Michael L. Ramsey as members of the Roanoke Public Library Board will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Wilburn C. Dibling, Jr., and Michael L. Ramsey.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Dibling and Mr. Ramsey were reappointed as members of the Roanoke Public Library Board for terms of three years each, ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MESSRS. DIBLING AND RAMSEY: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS BOARD: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Gail Burress and Clifford R. Weckstein as members of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Gail Burress and Clifford R. Weckstein.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Burress and Mr. Weckstein were reappointed as members of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for terms of three years each, ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MS. BURRESS AND MR. WECKSTEIN: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris -----7.

COMMITTEES-ROANOKE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP-OATHS OF OFFICE: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Bobby R. Caudle and Sandra B. Kelly as members of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Bobby R. Caudle and Sandra B. Kelly.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Caudle and Ms. Kelly were reappointed as members of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for terms of three years each, ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. CAUDLE AND MS. KELLY: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU: The Mayor advised that the one year terms of office of A. Morris Turner, Jr., and Barton J. Wilner as members of the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of A. Morris Turner, Jr., and Barton J. Wilner.

There being no further nominations, Messrs. Turner and Wilner were reappointed as members of the Roanoke Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau Board of Directors, for terms of one year each, ending June 30, 2007, by the following vote:

FOR MESSRS. TURNER AND WILNER: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-TOWING ADVISORY BOARD: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of Michael W. Conner, Walter T. Hinkley, Thomas W. Ruff, and Harold F. Wallick, Jr., as members of the Towing Advisory Board, will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Michael W. Conner, Walter T. Hinkley, Thomas W. Ruff, and Harold F. Wallick, Jr.

There being no further nominations, Messrs. Conner, Hinkley, Ruff, and Wallick were reappointed as members of the Towing Advisory Board, for terms of three years each, ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MESSRS. CONNER, HINKLEY, RUFF, AND WALLICK: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-SCHOOLS: The Mayor advised that the four year terms of office of Barry W. Baird and Dennis R. Cronk as members of the Virginia Western Community College Board will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of Barry W. Baird and Dennis R. Cronk.

There being no further nominations, Messrs. Baird and Cronk were reappointed as members of the Virginia Western Community College Board, for terms of four years, each ending June 30, 2010, by the following vote:

FOR MESSRS. BAIRD AND CRONK: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-VIRGINIA'S FIRST REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY: The Mayor advised that the four year term of office of R. Brian Townsend as a member of the Virginia First Regional Industrial Facility Authority will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of R. Brian Townsend.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Townsend was reappointed as a member of the Virginia First Regional Industrial Facility Authority, for a term ending June 30, 2010, by the following vote:

FOR MR. TOWNSEND: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-VIRGINIA ALCOHOL SAFETY ACTION PROGRAM: The Mayor advised that the two year term of office of A. L. Gaskins as a City representative to the Regional Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancy.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the name of A. L. Gaskins.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Gaskins was reappointed as a City representative to the Regional Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board, for a term ending June 30, 2008, by the following vote:

FOR MR. GASKINS: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

OATHS OF OFFICE-COMMITTEES-FIFTH PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION: The Mayor advised that the three year terms of office of William D. Bestpitch, Darlene L. Burcham, and Robert H. Logan, III, as members of the Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission will expire on June 30, 2006; whereupon, he opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacancies.

Vice-Mayor Fitzpatrick placed in nomination the names of William D. Bestpitch, Darlene L. Burcham, and Robert H. Logan, III.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Bestpitch, Ms. Burcham, and Mr. Logan were reappointed as members of the Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission, for terms of three years each, ending June 30, 2009, by the following vote:

FOR MR. BESTPITCH, MS. BURCHAM, AND MR. LOGAN: Council Members Lea, McDaniel, Wishneff, Cutler, Dowe, Fitzpatrick and Mayor Harris-----7.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the Council meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Mary F. Parker
City Clerk

C. Nelson Harris
Mayor
